MINUTES

Nov 1856

OF THE

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION

OF

Orange Presbytery,

HELD AT BETHESDA CHURCH, CASWELL COUNTY,

NORTH CAROLINA.

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OF THE

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION

OF

ORANGE PRESBYTERY.

Bethesda Church, Caswell Co., N. C.,
November 5th, 1856.

Presbytery met according to adjournment, and was opened with a sermon by the Moderator, Rev. J. J. Smyth, from Phil. i. 21: "For me to live is Christ."

Constituted with prayer.

Present: J. H. Pickard, Thomas Lynch, Edward Hines, A. G. Hughes, C. K. Caldwell, T. U. Faucette, J. J. Smyth, and J. W. Montgomery, Ministers;

With Messrs. Thomas Moore, H. T. Watkins, E. C. Forest, Robert H. Scales, D. Craig, E. Donnell, and Wm. H. Cummings, Ruling Elders.

Rev. A. G. Hughes was chosen Moderator, and Rev. C. K. Caldwell and Mr. H. T. Watkins, Temporary Clerks.

Rev. J. J. Smyth was appointed Treasurer *pro. tem.*

A letter of excuse for absence from the present meeting was received from Rev. Thomas R. Owen, which was deemed satisfactory.

The reading of the minutes of the last session of Presbytery was dispensed with.

Rev'ds J. J. Smyth, E. Hines, T. U. Faucette, and Dr. Robert

H. Scales, were appointed a Committee to report to Presbytery Standing Committees for the examination of Candidates.

Presbytery then adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9½ o'clock.

Closed with prayer.

Thursday Morning, Nov. 6th, 1856.

Presbytery met according to adjournment, and was opened with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read and corrected.

Rev'ds S. A. Stanfield, J. Doll, and Wm. N. Mebane, with Messrs. N. M. Lewis, C. H. Wiley, and Daniel McGilvary, appeared in Presbytery, and gave satisfactory reasons for tardiness.

Presbytery then spent an hour in devotional exercises.

Rev. S. A. Stanfield and Mr. N. M. Lewis were appointed a Committee to prepare a suitable Minute in relation to the Death of Rev. WILLIAM P. WHARTON.

The Presbyterial sermon was made the order of the day for to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

The Churches of Oxford and Little River asked permission to employ Rev. T. U. Faucette, as Stated Supply, each for the one half of his time. These requests were granted.

Rev. Messrs. J. H. Pickard, A. G. Hughes, and C. K. Caldwell, being called on, rendered to Presbytery reasons for not attending the last and former stated sessions of Presbytery.

Rev. Messrs. J. J. Smyth and S. A. Stanfield, with Mr. James Mebane, were appointed a Committee to report some action for Presbytery in relation to Yanceyville Church.

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of Standing Committees for the examination of Candidates, made a report, which was accepted and adopted, and is as follows:

Alexander Wilson, D.D., F. N. Whaley, and J. M. Sherwood, *on Languages.*

J. Phillips, D.D., A. G. Hughes, and E. Mitchell, D.D., *Natural Sciences.*

T. R. Owen and J. M. Kirkpatrick, *Natural and Moral Philosophy and Logic.*

J. J. Smyth, T. G. Wall, and C. K. Caldwell, *Theology.*

J. M. Atkinson, A. Currie, and J. W. Montgomery, *Ecclesiastical History.*

E. Hines, William N. Mebane, and Thomas Lynch, *Church Government.*

E. W. Caruthers, D.D., T. U. Faucette, and R. Burwell, *Sacraments.*

S. A. Stanfield, J. Doll, and G. W. Farrill, *Latin Exegesis and Critical Exercises.*

Rev'ds J. Doll, J. J. Smyth, and Mr. Daniel McGilvary, were appointed a Committee to examine Mr. John C. Denny on his literary course.

The Committee appointed to report some action in relation to the Yanceyville Church, presented the following preamble and resolutions, which were accepted and adopted:

WHEREAS, This Presbytery having been informed that Rev. John S. Grasty has, without the concurrence of Presbytery, resigned his pastoral charge of the Yanceyville Church, and removed out of our bounds: and whereas, a communication has been received from the Church of Yanceyville, requesting the dissolution of the pastoral relation: and whereas, although Presbytery is well aware of the irregularity of Brother Grasty's proceeding, yet, inasmuch as the health of a member of his family rendered it, as it seemed to him, imperative to leave Yanceyville prior to a meeting of Presbytery:

1. *Resolved*, That we express our disapprobation of Brother Grasty's mode of proceeding in the matter.

2. *Resolved*, That his pastoral relation with the Yanceyville Church be, and is hereby dissolved.

3. *Resolved*, That Rev. T. U. Faucette be directed to declare the Church vacant.

4. *Resolved*, That the Stated Clerk be directed to forward to Brother Grasty a letter of dismission to Montgomery Presbytery.

5. *Resolved*, That a copy of this preamble and these resolutions be forwarded to Brother Grasty, and also to the Stated Clerk of Montgomery Presbytery.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. J. SMYTH,
S. A. STANFIELD,
JAMES MEBANE,
Committee.

Rev. S. A. Stanfield and Mr. Wm. H. Cummings were appointed a Committee on the Minutes of the General Assembly.

The following persons were nominated as Commissioners to the next General Assembly, viz: Edward Hines, J. J. Smyth, A. Currie, and J. W. Montgomery, Ministers; and W. L. Owen, Jesse H. Lindsay, Alfred M. Scales, and William K. Mebane, Ruling Elders.

Rev. J. M. Kirkpatrick appeared in Presbytery, and gave satisfactory reasons for tardiness.

The roll was called, and inquiry made respecting the support of the poor, when the Ministers and Elders present stated that they had no poor in their congregations supported by public charity.

The report of the Committee of Domestic Missions was made the order of the day for 11 o'clock on Saturday.

Rev. J. M. Kirkpatrick and Mr. N. M. Lewis were appointed a Committee to prepare a Narrative of the State of Religion within the bounds of this Presbytery.

The free conversation on the state of religion was made the order of the day after recess on to-morrow.

The list of Supplies appointed at the last meeting was called, and the Ministers, who were present, made their reports.

Resolved, That the next regular meeting of Presbytery he held in the town of Pittsboro' on the second Wednesday of June at 8 o'clock, P. M.

The roll was called, and inquiry made respecting the observance of the third chapter of the Directory for Public Worship. The Ministers present reported that they had attended to the duty therein enjoined.

Rev. Messrs. Mebane and Kirkpatrick were appointed a Committee to confer with West Hanover Presbytery in relation to the organization of a Church at Cascade.

Resolved, That the Stated Clerk be required to give notice in two or three of the secular papers in this State of the time and place of each regular semi-annual meeting of Presbytery.

Mr. William K. Mebane, Ruling Elder, obtained leave of absence from the remaining sessions of Presbytery.

Rev. Messrs. J. J. Smyth, C. K. Caldwell, and C. H. Wiley, were appointed a Committee to bring in a Minute in relation to Systematic Collections in behalf of Church Extension.

Presbytery then adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9½ o'clock.

Closed with prayer.

Friday Morning, Nov. 7th, 1856.

Presbytery met according to adjournment, and was opened with prayer.

Rev. A. Currie and Mr. James Riley appeared in Presbytery, and gave satisfactory reasons for tardiness.

The minutes of yesterday were read and corrected.

The Committee on Systematic Collections for Church Extension made a report, which was accepted and adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee appointed to report on the Duties of the Presbytery and the Churches, respecting the Church Extension Committee, beg leave to submit the following:

That we consider the claims of this Committee upon the prayers and liberality of God's people, as of equal importance with the other benevolent operations of the Church. That the erection of houses of worship is the most effectual means, next to the stated ministry of the Word, for gathering and establishing permanent and self-sustaining Churches. That, in order to co-operate efficiently with the General Committee, we recommend that Presbytery appoint a Standing Committee, according to the recommendation of the General Committee, to take charge of this business, and report at every Spring meeting of Presbytery. And, also, that Presbytery recommend that every Pastor, and Stated Supply under its care, shall bring the claims and objects of this Committee before the people of their charges, and that a collection be taken up annually in all our Churches for this cause.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. J. Smyth,
C. K. Caldwell,
C. H. Wiley,
Committee.

Rev'ds John M. Kirkpatrick and Archibald Currie were appointed the Presbyterial Committee on Church Extension, in accordance with the foregoing recommendations.

The Committee of Domestic Missions recommended the following list of Supplies, which was accepted and adopted:

Milton.—A. Wilson, D.D., J. Phillips, D.D. and J. M. Kirkpatrick.
Yanceyville.—J. Phillips, D.D. and J. M. Kirkpatrick.
Griers.—A. Wilson, D.D. and Thomas Lynch.
Leakesville.—William N. Mebane and J. Doll.
Roxboro'.—E. Hines and S. A. Stanfield.
Randolph.—A. G. Hughes, A Currie and C. H. Wiley.
Winston.—J. J. Smyth and C. K. Caldwell.
Wilson.—J. M. Sherwood.
Mount Airy.—J. W. Montgomery.
Chapel Hill.—S. A. Stanfield and J. M. Atkinson.
Johnston.—Jos. M. Atkinson.
Franklinton.—T. U. Faucette.
Henderson.—N. Z. Graves and F. N. Whaley.

Rev'd Robert Burwell appeared in Presbytery and gave satisfactory reasons for tardiness.

The Committee appointed to bring in a Minute in relation to the death of Rev'd William P. Wharton, made a report which was accepted and adopted, and is as follows:

REV. WILLIAM P. WHARTON.

We as a Presbytery are again called to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. Since we last met He has taken from the scene of his earthly labors one of the members of this body.

Rev. WILLIAM P. WHARTON was licensed by this Presbytery in June, 1852, and was ordained and installed as Pastor of the Church in Milton in July, 1854. He died August 6th, 1856, aged about thirty years.

In this dispensation we find most comfort in the conviction that Jehovah reigns and that all has been done in wisdom and goodness. To us it seemed that our brother was such an one as was needed here. He was young and active, and in character eminently qualified for the Pastoral office.

In the community in which he labored he will be long remembered as an earnest and instructive preacher, as an affectionate and tender-

hearted Pastor, and as an humble and self-denying follower of our Divine Redeemer.

He was called suddenly away. On the Sabbath he was in the Sanctuary, on Monday employed in Pastoral work, and early on Thursday morning his spirit passed into Eternity. Yet he met death calmly and without alarm; his end was tranquil and peaceful. His reliance was in the merits of that Saviour whom he preached to others. Therefore,

Resolved, 1. That we thank God that our dear brother, both in his life and death, gave so much evidence that he was a faithful servant of his Master.

2. That we are hereby warned to be also ready.

3. That we offer our affectionate sympathy to the aged father and the afflicted widow of our brother.

4. That the Stated Clerk be directed to forward to each of these a copy of this paper.

S. A. Stanfield, *Ch'n.*

The Committee on the Minutes of the General Assembly made a report which was accepted and adopted, and is as follows:

The only subject in the Minutes of the General Assembly to which your Committee deems it necessary to call the attention of this Presbytery, is a resolution on page 531, on the subject of the fund for disabled Ministers and Widows. (See Resolution 2d.)

It will be seen that the General Assembly enjoins on every Presbytery to make such an arrangement as that an annual collection may be made for this purpose. Your Committee would recommend that this subject be referred to a Special Committee, that they may present some definite proposition in relation to it at the next regular meeting of Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted.

S. A. Stanfield.
Wm. H. Cummings. } *Com.*

Messrs. Mebane, Stanfield and Currie were appointed the Committee to whom the above subject was referred.

The Committee on Education made a report which was accepted and adopted, and is as follows:

The Presbytery has under its care seven candidates for the Ministry.

Messrs. Harding and Neal, in Union Theological Seminary.

Messrs. Morrow and Woodburn, at Chapel Hill, pursuing their preparatory course.

Mr. Phillips, Professor at Chapel Hill.

Mr. Denny is engaged in teaching; and Mr. Wiggins has not been heard from for some years,—has moved to the South and married. Your Committee recommend that his name be stricken from the list.

A. CURRIE, *Ch'n.*

A call from Yanceyville Church for the Pastoral services of Rev. J. DOLL, for the one-half of his time, was presented to Presbytery and read, which being found in order was placed in his hands.

A communication was received from Grier's Church, requesting permission to employ Rev. J. Doll as Stated Supply for the one-half of his time. This request was granted.

Presbytery re-considered the order of the day, for the free conversation on the state of religion, and that subject was then taken up.

The order of the day for 12 o'clock having arrived, the Presbyterial Sermon on Infant Baptism was preached by Rev. J. J. Smyth.

Mr. Alfred M. Scales and Dr. Payne, Ruling Elders, appeared in Presbytery and took their seats.

Rev. J. I. Boozer presented a certificate of dismission from the Presbytery of South Carolina, which being read was found in order, and, after the usual examination, he was received as a member of this Presbytery.

The Standing Committee to whom the Latin Exegesis and Critical Exercise of Mr. J. C. Denny were referred, made a report recommending that they both be sustained as parts of trial. This report was accepted and adopted.

The following persons were chosen as Commissioners to the next General Assembly:

Ministers.—Rev. J. J. Smyth, with Rev. Edward Hines alternate; Rev. J. W. Montgomery, with Rev. A. Currie alternate.

Ruling Elders.—Mr. Alfred M. Scales, with Mr. Wm. L. Owen alternate; Mr. J. H. Lindsay, with Mr. Wm. K. Mebane alternate.

The following Ministers and Elders obtained leave of absence from the remaining sessions of Presbytery: Rev. J. J. Smyth, C. K. Caldwell, J. I. Boozer, D. McGilvary, C. H. Wiley, Wm. H. Cummings, E. Donnell and Dr. Payne.

A letter was received from Mr. Henry Hardie, giving satisfactory reasons for his absence from the present meeting of Presbytery.

Rev. Wm. N. Mebane, with Rev. John. M. Kirkpatrick as his alternate, was appointed to preach the next Presbyterial Sermon. "Justification by Faith," was assigned as the subject.

The Committee appointed to examine Mr. John C. Denny on his literary course made a report, which was laid on the table.

The Committee on the Narrative made a report, which was accepted, and a copy ordered to be sent to the Synod and one also to the General Assembly.

Messrs. Kirkpatrick, Hines, Lewis and Watkins obtained leave of absence from the remaining sessions of Presbytery.

Presbytery then adjourned until to-morrow at 9½ o'clock, A. M.

Saturday Morning, Nov. 8th, 1856.

Presbytery met according to adjournment, and was opened with prayer.

Mr. Forest obtained leave of absence from the remaining sessions of Presbytery.

Rev. J. Doll having signified his acceptance of the call from the Church of Yanceyville, the Friday before the 3d Sabbath in April, 1857, was appointed as the time for his installation.

Rev. J. M. Kirkpatrick to preach the sermon, and Rev. S. A. Stanfield his alternate.

Rev. Edward Hines to charge the Pastor, and Rev. J. W. Montgomery his alternate.

Rev. Wm. N. Mebane to charge the people, and Rev. C. K. Caldwell his alternate.

Presbytery then examined Mr. Denny on his literary course. This examination was sustained as a part of trial.

It was recommended to Mr. Denny to pursue a regular course of study in a Theological Seminary, and the Presbytery tendered to him the use of its Scholarship in Princeton Seminary.

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Rev. J. Doll was appointed to fill the vacancy in the Committee of Domestic Missions, caused by the removal of Mr. Grasty.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Presbytery be tendered to the people of this community for their kindness in entertaining its members, and that Rev. J. W. Montgomery be directed to read this notice from the pulpit.

Presbytery then adjourned to meet in Pittsboro', N. C., on Wednesday, the 10th day of June, 1857, at 8 o'clock, P. M.

Closed with prayer.

J. DOLL, *Stated Clerk.*